AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A review facility for providing an item for <u>collaborative</u> review by a plurality of reviewers and collecting comments from reviewers, said review facility comprising:

preparation means for preparing an item for interactive review;

<u>means for making prepared items available for interactive collaborative review;</u>

means for collecting comments on elements of <u>said</u> prepared items <u>from said</u> <u>interactive collaborative review</u>; and

means for distributing collected <u>said</u> comments from <u>said interactive</u> <u>collaborative</u> review.

2. (original) A review facility as in claim 1 wherein the means for preparing said item for interactive review comprises:

selection means for selecting and retrieving said item; and

means for formatting retrieved said items.

3. (original) A review facility as in claim 2 wherein the means for formatting said item identifies individual said elements within said item, reviewers providing comments on ones of said individual elements.

4. (original) A review facility as in claim 3 where said item is a software source code block, said individual elements are individual lines of said source code, and said formatting means further builds a comment file, collected comments on code lines being contained in said comment file.

5. (original) A review facility as in claim 3 where said item is a document, said individual elements are individual blocks of text of said document, and said formatting means

further builds a comment file, collected comments on blocks of code being contained in said comment file.

6. (original) A review facility as in claim 1 wherein the means for collecting comments comprises:

means for providing items to reviewers; and

reviewer selection means for selecting said items for review responsive to reviewer selection.

7. (original) A review facility as in claim 6 wherein the item being reviewed is source code for software and elements of said source code are individual lines of code.

8. (original) A review facility as in claim 6 wherein the item being reviewed is a document and elements of said document are individual blocks of text.

9. (currently amended) A review facility as in claim 1, wherein said means for distributing collected said comments makes collected said comments available for further interactive collaborative review, said review facility further comprising:

means for conducting a formal review, said formal review considering collected comments provided by reviewers participating in said formal review and previously distributed to said reviewers by said means for distributing collected comments.

10. (original) A method of reviewing an item being prepared for distribution, said method comprising the steps of:

a)   preparing an item for interactive review;

b)   making said prepared item available to a plurality of reviewers for comments on item elements, ones of said plurality of reviewers returning comments on said prepared item; and

c)   conducting a formal review meeting of said plurality of reviewers, whereby one or more of the previously provided comments sufficiently provides attending reviewers awareness of a particular condition with respect to said item that said comment may be addressed in said item prior to said formal review meeting, such that further action is unnecessary at the time of said formal review with respect to said particular condition and each corresponding said comment.

11. (original) A method as in claim 10 wherein the step (a) of preparing said item for interactive review comprises the steps of:

    i)   retrieving said item for review;

    ii)   formatting said item, individual item elements being identified for comment in said formatted item.

12. (original) A method as in claim 11 wherein said item is source code and said formatting step ii) identifies individual lines of source code for comments and further, builds a comment file, comments provided on said lines of source code being contained in said comment file.

13. (original) A method as in claim 11 wherein said item is a document and said formatting step ii) identifies individual blocks of text in said document for comments and further, builds a comment file, comments provided on said blocks of text being contained in said comment file.

14. (original) A method as in claim 10 wherein the step (b) of making the prepared item available for comments comprises for each reviewer the steps of:

    i)   selecting said item;

    ii)   reviewing comments on said selected item;

    iii) determining whether said selected item warrants additional comments;

    iv) distributing warranted additional comments on said selected item; and

    v)   repeating steps (i-iv) until all items for review have been selected.

15. (original) A method as in claim 14 wherein said item is source code and elements in said item are lines in said source code, comments on any of said lines being contained in a comment file.

16. (original) A method as in claim 14 wherein said item is a document and elements in said document are blocks of text, comments on any of said blocks of text being contained in a comment file.

17. (original) A method as in claim 14 wherein items are stored in a central repository and the step (i) of selecting said item comprises connecting over the Internet to said central repository and accessing said item.

18. (original) A method as in claim 10 wherein returned comments are available for display by reviewers upon receipt.

19. (currently amended) A computer program product for presenting an item for collaborative review by a plurality of reviewers and collecting comments from reviewers, said computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, said computer readable program code comprising:

computer program code means for preparing an item for collaborative review;

computer program code means for collecting comments on prepared items;

computer program code means for distributing comments to reviewers; and

computer program code means for presenting prepared items for formal review, said formal review considering collected comments provided by reviewers, whereby reviewers participating in said formal review are aware of collected said comments [[and]] previously distributed to said reviewers.

20. (currently amended) A computer program product as in claim 19 wherein the computer program code means for preparing presenting said item for interactive collaborative review comprises:

computer program code selection means for selecting and retrieving said item; and

computer program code means for formatting retrieved said items.

21. (original) A computer program product as in claim 20 wherein the computer program code means for formatting said item identifies individual said elements within said item, reviewers providing comments on ones of said individual elements.

22. (original) A computer program product as in claim 21 where said item is a software source code block, said individual elements are individual lines of said source code, and said computer program code means for formatting further builds a comment file, collected comments on code lines being contained in said comment file.

23. (currently amended) A computer program product as in claim 21 [[22]] where said item is a document, said individual elements are individual blocks of text of said document, and said computer program code means for formatting further builds a

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comment file, collected comments on blocks of code being contained in said comment
file.

24. (original) A computer program product as in claim 19 wherein the computer program
code means for collecting comments comprises:

      computer program code means for providing items to reviewers; and

      computer program code means for selecting said items for review responsive to
reviewer selection.

25. (original) A computer program product as in claim 24 wherein the item being
reviewed is source code for software and elements of said source code are individual
lines of code.

26. (currently amended) A computer program product as in claim <u>24</u> [[25]] wherein the
item being reviewed is a document and elements of said document are individual blocks
of text.

27. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality
of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed
by a processor, cause the processor to:

      a)   prepare an item for interactive review;

      b)   make said prepared item available to a plurality of reviewers for
comments on item elements;

      c)   <u>receive</u> ~~receiving~~ comments from ones of said plurality of reviewers; and

      d)   <u>present</u> ~~presenting~~ said item and received said comments for a formal
review meeting of said plurality of reviewers, whereby one or more of the previously
provided comments sufficiently provides attending reviewers awareness of a particular
condition with respect to said item that said comment may be addressed in said item prior
to said formal review meeting, such that further action is unnecessary at the time of said
formal review with respect to said particular condition and each corresponding said
comment.

28. (original) A computer readable medium as in claim 27 wherein the instruction step (a)
of preparing said item for interactive review causes the processor to:

      i)   selectively retrieve said item for review; and

ii)   format said item, individual item elements being identified for comment in said formatted item.

29. (original) A computer readable medium as in claim 28 wherein said item is a text file and said formatting step ii) causes said processor to identify individual blocks of text in said text file for comments and further, build a comment file, comments provided on said blocks of text being contained in said comment file.

30. (original) A computer readable medium as in claim 28 wherein said item is source code and said formatting step ii) causes said processor to identify individual lines of source code for comments and further, build a common file, comments provided on said lines of source code being contained in said comment file.

31. (original) A computer readable medium as in claim 27 wherein items in a central repository and the step i) of selecting said item causes the processor to connect over the Internet to said central repository and access said item.